REMARKS

The claims have been amended to eliminate the indefiniteness noted by the Examiner and to define the invention with sufficient particularity to overcome the double patenting rejection and the rejection based on Section 103.

Claim 6 has been amended to make it clear that the tablets are not claimed elements of the invention. The recitation of the tablets is to provide an environment in which the invention may be defined.

Claims 6, 7 and 8 have been amended to more precisely define the present invention which includes a closed wrapping and at least one film pack. Claim 6 furthermore claims that the transverse sides of the wrapping have a length of separation, and specifies that the film pack has a normal length longer than the length of separation. Claim 6 furthermore recites that the film packs are of a material which permits resilient contraction of the normal length, so that when inserted into wrapping, the film pack is in resilient contact with one of the transverse side walls. These features are not claimed in Applicants' prior patent, and these features are not deemed obvious from the claims of the prior patent.

The claims were further rejected over Cornelissens (US Patent No. 4,397,391), Swiss Patent No. 401 812 and Carson et al. (US Patent No. 2,669,351).

Cornelissens relates to a package for detergent-containing sachets which are designed to open up when inserted into the hot water of a washing machine. To prevent damage to the sachets during shipment, the two opposite sealing edges were bent at 90° and are kept folded by an elastic tape. There is no teaching or suggestion in this patent of Applicants' claimed arrangement wherein the package is of a material which permits resilient retraction of its length so that when in the wrapping, the pack is in resilient contact with one of the transverse side walls of the wrapping.

The Swiss patent, although showing a package with longitudinal and transverse seams, does not cure the deficiencies of the Cornelissens' patent. The Swiss patent does not teach or suggest that the film packs be of a material which permits resilient contraction of said normal length and being arranged so that at least one end of each pack is in resilient contact with the transverse side walls. A translation of the Swiss patent is provided as Attachment A-4.

The further recitation of the Carson et al. Patent likewise fails to supply the deficiency of the Cornelissens' patent. The Carson patent relates to a package for pillow-

shaped pouches which contain a liquid which may readily leak. The packaging includes corrugated boards or other supports (15 and 16) which leave room for the projecting corners of the pillow-shaped pouches. While these fillers may serve to actually reinforce the sides of the package, there is no teaching or suggestion of providing a film pack of a material which permits resilient contraction of the normal length and is arranged so that at least one end of the pack is in resilient contact with the transverse side walls of the wrapping.

The novel combination of features set forth in claim 6 contributes to the efficient and effective packaging of fragile tablets. The contractible lengths of the film packs permits them to be packaged and held against damage from impacts or other rough handling during shipment and storage. Thus, claim 6 defines an invention which is neither taught nor suggested by the references applied by the Examiner.

Since claim 6 is properly patentable to Applicant, dependent claims 7-10 are also patentable.

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No. 401 812 PATENT No. 401 812

SWISS CONFEDERATION
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MAIN PATENT

Firm of Hesser Maschinenfabrik-Aktiengesellschaft, Stuttgart-Bad Cannstatt (Germany)

Resealable Bag Package

Paul Kühnle, Winnenden (Württ, Germany) has been named as the inventor.

The present invention pertains to a resealable bag package having a sealing strip and with a longitudinal seam running over the one side of the bag.

For resealing bag packages, it is known to provide a deformable, inflexible strip on their sealing part. This strip, which is fastened to one of the walls of the bag in its longitudinal direction, is jointly rolled up in the seal in the form of a roll-up fold during the resealing of the bag. Partly due to its inflexibility, the sealing strip deformed in this way holds the roll-up fold together in such a way that the bag is resealed reliably and in a dustproof manner against unintentional opening. One drawback of this strip arrangement is that the loosely lying sharp edges and ends of the sealing strip, which is usually cut into lengths by cutting a metal tape, destroy the adjacent wall of the bag during the handling of the bag package, such that the bag is then no longer leakproof.

In order to avoid this drawback, the said sealing strip according to the present invention is arranged within the longitudinal seam of the bag in the upper part of the bag.

In bag packages, which are provided with a so-called Finseal seam, which at first projects approximately axially from the wall of the bag and is then folded down onto same, the sealing strip is inserted between the two flaps of this seam and preferably connected to one or both of these flaps. This manner of attaching the sealing strip to the bag can not only be carried out very easily, but also has the additional advantage that the strip is completely covered by the said seam flaps. Moreover, this arrangement of the sealing strip on bag packages, and in particular in vacuum packages, has the advantage that no weakening of the wall of the bag occurs as a result of the fastening of the sealing strip in the longitudinal seam, so that the package is maintained perfectly leakproof.

The subject of the present invention is explained below based on schematic drawings for a preferred exemplary embodiment, in which:

Figure 1 shows the top part of the novel package in the unsealed state,

Figure 2 shows the package of Figure 1 after the sealing folding has been carried out, and

Figure 3 shows the package resealed by means of a roll-up fold.

In the exemplary embodiment shown, the package consists of a single-wall bag 1 with an inflexible, deformable sealing strip 2. The material of the sealing strip 2 may consist of thin sheet metal or paper reinforced with wire inserts or the like. The sealing strip 2 is arranged in the upper end part of the bag 1 and is located, on both sides, inserted between the two flaps 4, 5 forming the longitudinal seam 3 of the bag 1. This longitudinal seam 3, which is produced by heat sealing in the form of a so-called Finseal seam in the present exemplary embodiment, runs approximately axially on the broad site of the bag 1. The sealing strip 2, which is inserted between the two free flaps 4, 5 of the seam 3 folded down onto the corresponding side of the bag 1, is provided with a heat-sealable coating and therefore bonds with one or both flaps 4, 5.

For the first sealing of the bag package the projecting end of the bag extending above the fill level 6 is flattened and likewise bonded tightly in the form of a Finseal seam (Figure 2). This seal 7 may, in a manner known per se, be folded down onto the top of the bag package and the fold tips that are formed on the short sides of the package are either folded down likewise onto the top or else onto the short sides of the package.

After opening the bag package and removing a portion of the contents of same, the opening of the bag is again flattened in a manner known per se and sealed in the form of a roll-up fold seal 8 (Figure 3). The sealing strip 2 is rolled up jointly in the seal 8 and is deformed in such a way that it counteracts the restoring force of the bag material and thus prevents an undesired coming undone of the roll-up fold seal 8.

In bags with a longitudinal seam in the form of a bonded overlap, the sealing strip 2 is bonded in place correspondingly between the two parts of the overlap seam.

PATENT CLAIM

Resealable bag package with a sealing strip and a longitudinal seam running over one side of the bag, characterized in that the said deformable, inflexible sealing strip (2) is arranged within the said longitudinal seam (3) in the upper part of the bag.

SUBCLAIMS

1. Resealable bag package in accordance with the patent claim with a Finseal longitudinal seam, in which inside is bonded or sealed against inside, characterized in that the said sealing strip (2) is inserted between the said two flaps (4, 5) of this seam (3) and is preferably connected to one or both said flaps (4, 5).

2. Resealable bag package in accordance with the patent claim and subclaim 1, characterized in that the said sealing strip (2) is fastened within the said longitudinal seam (3) by means of heat sealing.

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